

# On the Job

## Vocabulary

All the words in this lesson may pertain to construction, manufacturing, and production.

**artisan** (AHR ti zuhn) N. a skilled worker  
(*We hired an artisan to build our fireplace.*)

**commerce** (KAHM urs) N. the exchange of materials and products; trade (*The war-torn country suffered from a lack of commerce.*)

**conglomerate** (kuhn GLAHM ur it) N. a variety of businesses owned by a single corporation (*The conglomerate owns a major publishing company and an oil company.*)

**consignment** (kuhn SYN muhnt) N. a shipment of goods to a dealer who pays for only what is sold (*My mother sells athletic equipment on consignment.*)

**contractor** (KAHN TRAK tur) N. one who agrees to provide materials and services in construction (*My brother is the contractor who built this subdivision.*)

**convection** (kuhn VEK shuhn) N. the transfer of heat in gas or liquid due to unequal temperatures and density (*This manufacturing process requires convection that takes place in large ovens.*)

**diverse** (di VURS) ADJ. different (*The conglomerate owned a number of diverse companies.*)

**drudgery** (DRUHJ uh ree) N. dull, menial work (*If you are not satisfied with your job, it can seem like drudgery.*)

**economize** (i KAHN uh MYZ) V. to save money; to be frugal (*The factory must economize so there will be no pay raises this year.*)

**embargo** (em BAHR goh) N. a restraint of trade (*The oil embargo of the 1970s made gasoline expensive in the United States.*)

**enterprise** (EN tur PRYZ) N. a difficult, complicated, and perhaps risky, task (*Building 100-story skyscrapers is quite an enterprise.*)

**entrepreneur** (AHN truh pruh NUR) N. one who starts and assumes the risks of a business (*Joseph Pulitzer was an entrepreneur who established several newspapers.*)

**estimate** (ES tuh mit) N. a rough calculation (*I asked the contractor to give me a price estimate before I hired him to build my house.*)

**expedite** (EK spi DYT) V. to speed up a process (*Careful planning can expedite the manufacturing process.*)

**facility** (fuh SIL i tee) N. something built or established for a specific purpose (*The new company has a child-care facility in the main building.*)

**hazardous** (HAZ ur duhs) ADJ. dangerous; exposing one to risk (*Asbestos was found to be a hazardous material and is no longer used in buildings.*)

**laborious** (luh BOR ee uhs) ADJ. requiring a lot of effort or work (*Manufacturing baseballs is a laborious task; each one is sewn together by hand.*)

**ramp** (ramp) N. an inclined passage connecting different levels (*The workers unloaded the truck by pushing the crates down a ramp.*)

**vendor** (VEN dur) N. one who sells (*After we produce these T-shirts, we will hire a vendor to sell them.*)

**wares** (wairz) N. merchandise (*The purpose of manufacturing is to produce wares.*)